



NEWSLETTER



DCP and ACRE Sign-up Deadline is June 1

Sign-up for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP) Program and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program will continue until **June 1, 2011**. Interested producers are urged to contact the County FSA Office ASAP to complete their 2011 DCP or ACRE contracts. Under DCP, eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2011, eligible producers may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment. The Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) Option provides a safety net based on state revenue losses and acts in place of the price-based safety net of counter-cyclical payments under DCP. Under ACRE, a farm's payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. In exchange for participating in ACRE, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20 percent, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30 percent. The decision to enroll in the ACRE Program is irrevocable. The owner of the farm and all producers on the farm must agree to enroll in ACRE. Once enrolled, the farm shall be enrolled for that initial crop year and will remain in ACRE through the 2012 crop year. Visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp or contact this office for additional information on the ACRE program.

2009 SURE Sign-Up Deadline is July 29

Signup for the SURE program for the 2009 Crop Year began on January 10, 2011 and will end on **July 29, 2011**. To be eligible for SURE a producer must have at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance and a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage. Producers that have a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county by the Agriculture Secretary under a Secretarial Disaster Designation or a contiguous county and meet the above criteria are eligible for SURE. Roosevelt County was designated as a primary/ contiguous disaster county in 2009.

2011 Prevented Planting Final Report Date

Producers that intended to plant crops/acres this spring and were prevented from planting due to a natural disaster are reminded that they must file form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, with their local FSA Office within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crops. Final planting dates vary by crop so the final date to file this form with FSA varies by crop. Producer who are prevented from planting insurable crops are urged to check with their crop insurance agent for the applicable final planting dates. Producers who have NAP crops that are prevented planted should contact FSA. If a request for prevented planting is not filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date, it is considered late filed and may require a minimum of \$46 to have an on-site inspection completed to determine that the natural disaster condition was evident. If the disaster condition that prevented the crop from being planted is no longer apparent, then the FSA-576 may be denied and no benefits will be applicable. Producers who have insured crops that were prevented planted will be required to provide proof that they filed for prevented planting credit with crop insurance. It is important that form FSA-576 is timely filed as this could affect future 2011 SURE payments if applicable and/or acreage history credit. Approved prevented planted acreage may also be eligible for ACRE payments. **Given FSA's current budget shortage it is highly likely that we will be using crop insurance information so it is critical that the same crops and acres are reported to FSA and crop insurance when reporting prevented planted acres.**

Roosevelt County FSA Office

PO Box 519
Culbertson, MT 59218
Phone (406) 787-6262
Fax (406) 787-6132

May 2011

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee Members:

Dennis Loendorf
Mary Grainger Nesbit
William Clay Petersen

Next County Committee

Meeting:

June 7, 2011
9:00 a.m.

FSA Office Personnel

Carol Ritter-Fellman, CED
Julie Williams, Chief PT
Darcia Larsen, PT
Julane Poland, PT
Judy Grimsrud, PT
Jill Davidson, PT
Andrea Sorg, Field

Agricultural Lending Opportunities:

Questions regarding obtaining credit to start or enlarge a farming or ranching operation; financing agricultural operating expenses; or live-stock, machinery purchases should be directed to:
Patti McGinnis, Technician
at 406-433-2103 Ext. 108

Reasonable Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any FSA programs should contact the Roosevelt County FSA Office or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election: Below is a nomination form for the 2011 County Committee Election that will be held in early November to December 5, 2011. Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. This year, a producer is eligible to be a County FSA Committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) #3. This area includes farmers and ranchers that reside east of the Big Muddy. Duties of committee members include administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office, informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs, keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions, monitoring changes in farm programs, participating in county meetings as necessary and performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee. Completed and signed form(s) must be delivered to the FSA County Office or postmarked no later than **August 1, 2011**. Questions: call or visit a County FSA Office.

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Form Approved - OMB No. 0560-0229

FSA-669A
(03-31-11)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FSA COMMITTEE ELECTION

1. NAME OF NOMINEE (Type or Print Nominee's Full Name)

TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY FSA OFFICE

4. INITIALS OF EMPLOYEE RECEIVING FORM AND DATE RECEIVED

2. ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

5. COUNTY

6. LAA

7. STATE

3. NOMINEE'S CERTIFICATION:

I hereby agree to have my name placed on the ballot, that I will serve if elected, and if there is a conflict of interest, I will resign such position.

☐ I DO want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

☐ I DO NOT want to witness the settling of tied votes with another nominee.

8. NOMINATOR'S CERTIFICATION:

If this nomination is by other than self, the following eligible voter or representative of a community based organization hereby nominates the afore-named person to be a candidate in the next County FSA Committee election for the county.

3A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

3B. DATE

8A. SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR

8B. DATE

☐ Check here if nominee is a write-in candidate.

(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required).

9. TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINEE

VOLUNTARY INFORMATION FOR MONITORING PURPOSES: The following information is requested by the Federal Government in order to monitor FSA's compliance with federal laws prohibiting discrimination against program participants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, handicapped condition, or age. You are not required to furnish this information, but are encouraged to do so. This information will not be used in evaluating your nomination or to discriminate against you in any way.

ETHNICITY

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

RACE (Choose as many boxes as applicable)

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ White

☐ Black or African-American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

GENDER

☐ Male

☐ Female

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

Complete the form as follows:

ITEM 1 Type or Print the nominee's full name. The nominee must be:

A. Eligible to vote in the designated County FSA Committee election.

B. Eligible to hold the office of County FSA Committee member.

C. Willing to serve if elected.

ITEM 2 Enter the nominee's current address.

ITEM 3 The nominee must check one of the boxes to indicate a preference regarding the settling of tied votes.

ITEMS 3A & 3B The nominee must sign and date.

ITEMS 8A & 8B The nominator must sign and date. *(If the individual is self nominating, no signature is required.)*

ITEM 9 Completing this item is voluntary.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE COUNTY OFFICE OR POSTMARKED BY AUGUST 1, 2011.

NOTE:

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246). The information will be used to obtain nominees for election to the County FSA Committee. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for County Personnel Records, USDA/FSA-6. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for nomination for election to the County FSA Committee.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0229. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.

Filing a Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Notice-of-Loss

To qualify for assistance under NAP, production losses or prevented planting must have occurred as a result of an eligible cause of loss. An eligible cause of loss is any of the following: damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, or excessive wind; or adverse natural occurrences, such as earthquake or flood; or a condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as excessive heat, disease or insect infestation. Wildlife damage and weeds are **not** considered eligible causes of loss under NAP. A notice of loss must be provided for prevented planting claims, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. For low yield claims, the earlier of the following: 15 calendar days after the damaging weather or disaster occurrence or date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent to the producer; or 15 calendar days after the normal harvest date. If a Notice-of-Loss is filed after the established final planting date and the intent is to reseed to another crop intended for harvest, such as barley for grain, which is covered under crop insurance, a NAP payment cannot be received on the original failed crop because Montana is not a double cropping state. If the intent is to destroy the crop, summer fallow it, or reseed to another crop **not** intended for harvest, representative strips must be left in the field so that a loss adjuster can be sent out closer to normal harvest time to appraise the original seeded crop. In this situation, the original seeded crop would still be eligible for a payment. **NAP participants are also reminded that July 15, 2011 is the final date to submit crop year 2010 production evidence for crops that were covered in 2010. Failure to submit this documentation may lead to a substantially reduced APH. For more info, contact the County FSA Office.**

Livestock Indemnity Program

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers for eligible livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather including losses due to floods, blizzards, disease, wildfires, extreme heat, and extreme cold. For 2011 losses, producers must file a notice of loss the earlier of either 30 calendar days of when the loss of each livestock was apparent to the participant or October 31, 2011. A notice of loss can be reported to the office by phone, fax, or e-mail. To be considered eligible, livestock deaths must occur before October 1, 2011, and in the calendar year for which benefits are being requested. An Application for Payment may be filed at any time in 2011, but must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the loss of livestock occurred.

Verify FSA Payments Reported to IRS

Area farmers and ranchers that received form CCC-1099-G to assist with reporting FSA payments to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) should verify the amounts shown to ensure that they are correct. It is important to note that refunds are no longer reported on the CCC-1099-G. Producers that have questions concerning the CCC-1099-G or the amounts listed on the form, should contact the FSA Office for assistance.

2011 Acreage Reports Filing Deadline: July 15

The 2011 compliance map packets that will be used for acreage reporting purposes are complete. Area farmers and ranchers should stop at the office and pick them up as soon as possible. If they are not picked up soon FSA will mail them. Producers are reminded to follow the instructions closely when completing the maps to ensure that all the cropland and rangeland is reported if required for program eligibility. The deadline to file 2011 acreage reports is **July 15, 2011.**

Soil or Gravel Removal and Other Land Changes - Caution

Producers that plan to plant an agricultural commodity on any land where soil or gravel has been removed, are reminded to work with the local NRCS and FSA offices in advance to avoid the possibility of any non-compliance issues and/or loss of benefits. To be eligible for USDA benefits, all producers planting agricultural commodities on predominantly highly erodible fields are required to do so according to the provisions of an acceptable conservation system/plan to ensure adequate residue exists.

Farm Divisions/Combinations

Producer who have sold, purchased, or leased a farm or part of a farm should notify this office immediately. The deadline to request a farm division or a farm combination for 2011 is **August 1, 2011** for those farms participating in DCP/ACRE. If requests are not filed timely, it may be difficult to complete 2011 contracts by the applicable deadline. Requests received after August 1, 2011, will be processed for crop year 2012.

County Committee Election Results

Congratulations to Mary Grainger Nesbit who was elected to represent farmers and ranchers from the central portion of Roosevelt County on the local County FSA Committee. Mary will serve a 3-year term.

Current USDA Settlements and Non-Judicial Claims Process:

Native American Farmers & Ranchers Settlement Agreement

If you are a Native American who was denied a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing by the USDA between Jan. 1, 1981 and Nov. 24, 1999, you may be eligible for benefits from a Class Action Settlement. To request a Claims Package or for more information, call 1-888-233-5506 or visit www.IndianFarmClass.com.

Non-Judicial Claims Process for Hispanic & Women Farmers & Ranchers

If you believe that USDA improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov.

African American Farmers Settlement Agreement (Pigford II)

If you are an African-American farmer who (a) submitted a request to file a late claim on or between Oct. 13, 1999 and June 18, 2008, under the 1999 USDA settlement in the earlier class action known as Pigford v. Glickman ("Pigford"), and (b) who did not receive a merits determination of their discrimination claim, you may be eligible for benefits from a Class Action Settlement. For more information, call 1-866-950-5547 or 1-866-472-7826 or visit www.blackfarmercase.com.

Selected Interest Rates - May 2011

Farm Operating - Direct	2.625%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency - Actual Loss	3.75%
Farm Storage Facility - 7-year	2.875
Farm Storage Facility - 10-year	3.5
Farm Storage Facility - 12-year	3.75

VISIT FSA ONLINE: Information on FSA programs, the 2011 Montana FSA Farmer & Rancher Program Handbook, state news releases and e-newsletters and individual county office newsletters & more are available at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/mt

FSA: Upcoming Important Dates to Remember:

May 14:	Spring grazing on CRP acres ends
May 15:	Beginning date of Primary Nesting Season
May 31:	Final Date to Request 2010 Marketing Assistance Loans/LDPs on Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seed
May 30	<i>CLOSED for Memorial Day</i>
June 1:	2011 DCP & 2011 ACRE Programs Signup Deadline
July 4	<i>CLOSED for Independence Day</i>
July 15:	Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 15:	2010 ACRE Production Reporting Deadline
July 15:	Final NAP Production Reports Due for 2010
July 15:	Final date to file 2010 crop application for NAP Payment
July 29:	SURE Sign-up Deadline for 2009 Crop Year
August 1:	Deadline to request a reconstitution
August 1:	Deadline to nominate for County Committee Election

*****Montana FSA Newsletter Notice *****

Non-active agriculture producers must "opt-in" to receive future newsletters

Effective March 1, 2011, the Montana Farm Service Agency has issued a new newsletter policy geared toward improving FSA newsletter delivery and efficiency to the individual farmers, ranchers and agriculture community. FSA newsletters will continue to be sent to active agriculture producers as determined by the County FSA Offices. No action is needed for active producers unless your household or business is receiving duplicate newsletters in which case you should inform your local County FSA Office. If you are not an "active" producer but are a landowner or are interested in receiving or continuing to receive a FSA newsletter, you must inform your local County FSA Office that you'd like to "Opt-in" and be added to the newsletter mailing list. In addition, you can choose to receive your newsletter electronically. Each newsletter not mailed saves the agency and taxpayer \$0.39. To request the electronic newsletter be emailed to you, please contact your County FSA Office.

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